[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

(*e*) Will the Government be pleased to invite the opinion of the Public Works Department regarding the belief of the people that, in case the Alattura channel is extended as far as Kottaram, it will ensure the safety of the Tovala channel besides affording convenience to agriculturists?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) Rs. 700

(*b*) Information has been called for and will be furnished on receipt.

(*c*) The Acting Chief Engineer proposes to investigate the matter with a view to extend the channel as far as may be found to be practicable. There is no correspondence as far as is known at present.

(*d*) A member at the eighteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly represented that though the holding capacity of the channel was only 3 ft., $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. of water was being let into the channel, resulting in breaches due to high pressure.

(*e*) The feasibility of the suggestion will be investigated.

Free Secondary Education for Pulayas, Parayas, etc.

69. MR. C. RAMANKUNJU: (*a*) Are the Government aware that the members of the Pulaya, Paraya and such other communities are, for want of means, unable to meet the expense of giving secondary education to their children?

(*b*) If so, will the Government be pleased to grant free education to their children in all secondary schools in the State and increase the number and amount of stipends to them?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (*a*) Government believe that it is generally the case.

(*b*) Government have recently sanctioned a scheme of fee concessions with a view to afford greater facilities to communities which are backward in point of education. Under this scheme such communities are divided into (1) depressed classes and (2) backward classes. Backward classes are again divided into (1) classes backward in respect of both vernacular and English education and (2) classes backward in point of English education only. Depressed classes will be allowed full fee remission in vernacular and in English schools. Classes not depressed but backward in point of both vernacular and English education will be allowed half-fee concession in both vernacular and English schools, while classes backward in English education alone will be allowed half-fee concession in English schools only. The scheme will come into force with effect from the beginning of the next school year. A notification on the subject will appear in the Gazette shortly.

In the matter of the grant of scholarships, Government propose to appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to examine the question and see whether, and if so how, the present arrangement requires alteration.

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